

## HOW TO READ LATIN PROSE EFFECTIVELY

from *Latin: How to Read it Fluently* by B. Dexter Hoyos

- REGULA I A new sentence or passage should be read through completely, several times if necessary, so as to see all its words in context.
- REGULA II As you read, register mentally the ending of every word so as to recognize how the words in the sentence relate to one another.
- REGULA III Recognize the way in which the sentence is structured—its Main Clause(s), subordinate clauses and phrases. Read them in sequence to achieve this recognition and reread the sentence as often as necessary, *without translating it*.
- REGULA IV Now look up unfamiliar words in the dictionary; and once you know what all the words can mean, reread the Latin to improve your grasp of the context and so clarify what the words in this sentence do mean.
- REGULA V If translating, translate only when you have seen exactly how the sentence works and what it means.

Do not translate in order to find out what the sentence means.  
Understand first, then translate.

- REGULA VI A — Once a subordinate clause or phrase is begun, it must be completed syntactically before the rest of the sentence can proceed.
- B — When one subordinate construction embraces another, the embraced one must be completed before the embracing one can proceed.
- C — A Main Clause must be completed before another Main Clause can start.
- REGULA VII Normally the words most emphasized by the author are placed at the beginning and end, and all the words in between contribute to the over-all sense, including those forming an embraced or dependent word-group.
- REGULA VIII The words within two or more word-groups are never mixed up together.
- REGULA IX Actions in a sentence are usually narrated in the order in which they occurred.
- REGULA X Analytical sentences are written with phrases and clauses in the order that is most logical to the author. The sequence of thought is signaled by the placement of word-groups and key words.